

Wide variety of issues on agenda for Kohl visit to Saudi Arabia

Bonn has still not made a decision on the controversial issue of whether to sell the Leopard Mk II tank to Saudi Arabia.

Chancellor Kohl did not want to commit himself during his visit to Saudi Arabia. His restraint is understandable. The Saudi Arabians have detailed ideas on their country's security and the military means they need to defend it.

But no Bonn government can afford to readily accept the Saudi viewpoint.

As a matter of principle Bonn exercises restraint in arms exports to countries that are not members of Nato. Does an exception make sense and can it be justified on major foreign policy grounds?

Saudi Arabia is of major importance to the West, but Israel is more than a mere bystander in this context, and Herr Kohl has yet to visit the Holy Land.

Bonn's ties with Riyadh are much closer than those with most Third

6 Overnight the Saudis became a vortex of Western security interests . . .

World countries. They are relations of a special kind.

In the 1970s Saudi Arabia made a meteoric rise from an insignificant desert state to an oil giant. It commands great political importance in the Arab world.

Financially it has long emerged as a world power. It has much higher foreign exchange reserves than any other country even though its balance of payments is in the red in the wake of declining oil exports.

But it is still Germany's largest trading partner outside the West and was for many years its foremost oil supplier until it was overtaken by Britain and Libya.

Bonn appreciates Saudi Arabia's moderate attitude among the Opec states.

Not even the Saudis were able to prevent the devastating second round of oil price increases in the late 1970s, but they succeeded time and again in calling a halt to the price spiral favoured by extremist oil producers.

They also top the list for ploughing petrodollars back into the Western economic cycle, having largely reinvested in the industrialised West their astronomical oil revenues.

Riyadh is even Bonn's leading foreign creditor. Between 1980 and 1982 it lent the Federal Republic of Germany a total of DM23bn.

In proportion as Bonn gained in international political standing during the 1970s the German government grew increasingly keen to step up ties with leading Third World countries over and above partnership within the West.

Saudi Arabia soon came to hold pride of place among these endeavours. Bonn and Riyadh are both interested in gaining leeway outside the superpowers' spheres of influence.

The Saudis were also anxious not to limit their cordial ties with the West to a one-sided emphasis on relations with the United States.

Such a one-sided approach would be sure to weaken their reputation and influence in the Arab world.

Saudi Arabia feels itself to be part of the free world, as is in keeping with the education and outlook on life of its elite.

But it is strongly opposed to equating the free world with the West. As a non-aligned state anxious to maintain its independence from the superpowers in particular, the country needs to diversify its cordial ties with the West.

The Federal Republic of Germany, as an economic great power, naturally enjoyed priority. Three factors accounted for the importance of the resulting partnership between Bonn and Riyadh:

First, Saudi Arabia has exercised a moderating influence on its Arab neighbours in the Middle East conflict, especially on the extremists.

Second, Saudi Arabia sought close ties with the West during the Iran crisis in 1979 when, after the ousting of the Shah, it looked temporarily as though Islamic fundamentalism under Khomeini might spread like a bush fire throughout the Gulf.

The Saudis thus immediately stepped into the breach when Iran abruptly reduced its oil exports. They thus helped to ensure that a supply bottleneck did not arise.

Third, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan transformed the Gulf in general, and Saudi Arabia in particular, into the vortex of Western security interests, including Bonn's, overnight.

It looked as though the area might be turned into a world hot spot and run the risk of setting the scene for a military clash between the two superpowers.

The industrialised Western countries were worried about unhindered supplies of vital energy imports without which their economic security would be devastated.

Cordial ties with Saudi Arabia assumed overriding importance, and that was the situation when in summer 1980 Chancellor Helmut Schmidt welcomed King Khalid to Bonn.

The late King ruled a country from which Germany imported more than a quarter of its oil. He reaffirmed his interest in arms deals with West Germany and the Chancellor promised to give the matter careful consideration.

Herr Schmidt intended to reach a decision on the Saudis' shopping list for military hardware by the end of the year.

A rational process of decision-making was rendered virtually impossible when at the end of 1980 Social Democrats were outraged by the delivery of German-made submarines to the Pinochet regime in Chile.

The Social Democrats, Chancellor Schmidt's party, did not learn of the decision by the Federal Security Council until after the event. This was due to a serious breakdown in communications.

The Bonn government was virtually no longer in a position to give sober consideration to whether vital economic security interests might not be at stake in the Persian Gulf that warranted exporting arms to Saudi Arabia.

This issue was totally upstaged by an ideologically-tinged controversy within the SPD.

People close to feeling within the Social Democratic parliamentary party at the time said the Chancellor might have had an easy time of the arms deal with Saudi Arabia if only he had demonstratively refused to supply the submarines to Chile.

Whatever the truth may have been, the Bonn government was certainly subjected to hopeless pressure.

Worries over economic security that had overcome everyone after the shock of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were dispelled.

Besides, the permit procedure for arms exports was governed not only by the War Weapons Control Act and the Foreign Trade Act but also by a 1971 Cabinet ruling.

The ruling stipulated that no arms were to be exported to areas where tension prevailed. But it was inadequate to cover such a complicated case as that of Saudi Arabia.

That was why a fresh statement of political principles governing arms exports was decided on. It had the added advantage that time could be gained.

The political parties in the Bundestag were also expected to be forced to debate the issue and to reach clear-cut decisions on it.

Prior to Helmut Schmidt's April 1980 visit to Riyadh industry bombarded the Press with reports of wildly exaggerated Saudi expectations in respect of arms supplies from Germany.

In addition to the headline-hitting Leopard 2 tank the Saudis were said to be interested in other armoured-plated vehicles and even anti-aircraft weapons.

Israel did not look on idly. It lodged a strongly-worded quasi-veto. Foreign Minister Genscher grew less enthusiastic when he noted the strength of opposition to an arms deal with Saudi

6 The Saudis want to buy German, not American . . . as a political decision

Arabia in his own party, the Free Democrats.

The Defence Ministry noted that the Leopard Mk 2 included such advanced technology that it would really be better to sell it to no-one but Nato allies.

The Ministry took (and takes) a dim view of the foreign policy effect of the stationing of German arms experts and instructors in Saudi Arabia that would then become necessary.

On the eve of the discussion between Chancellor Schmidt and the Saudi leaders it was clear that all the Chancellor could do — again — was to make a vague interim statement.

The only explanation he could offer his Saudi hosts for his hesitation was a reference to German history, to domestic political resistance occasioned by this historical background and to the new arms export guidelines, on which work had yet to be completed.

But there was still no question of a clear-cut refusal to supply arms to the Saudis.

The atmosphere between the two delegations at the conference table in

Riyadh was one of cordiality but the reminder that it was Bonn made its mind up about whether to make a drastic decision on motor reading seem a distant

Fear and trembling were number of faces in Bonn as Chancellor Schmidt outlined the

But Crown Prince Fahd was, maintained his dignity and no signs of emotion. In his

He preferred not to insist on deals he would have liked to

On returning from the North-South summit in Cairo, Fahd stopped over in Bonn

It is incomprehensible how so of events can be taken to be that Helmut Schmidt made

Chancellor Kohl was busy in dealing with the Saudi

"Outside Europe and other Saudi Arabia is our most

It is a relationship that has been damaged by the

The Saudis want to buy weapons because of their

United States might make Saudi Arabia has played

A level-headed assessment requirements ought from

Not all Riyadh's arms can be met: not so many as fast. The Kohl government,

Israel today has the significant Christian Democrats that

What irretrievable foreign might possibly justify limited

As for the Bonn government's Helmut Schmidt and Helmut

The German Tribune Friedrich Reinbeck Verlag GmbH, 50 Sahlen

Editor-in-Chief: Otto Hahn, Editor: Albrecht English language sub-editor: Simon Burke

Advertising rates list No. 15 — Annual subscription DM 48 Printed by Druck- und Verlagsanstalt

In all correspondence please quote your number, which appears on the masthead

GERMAN-AMERICAN TIES

Beneath the celebrations, a need to clarify a few misunderstandings

Many Americans do not understand that Germans can be pro-American and at the same time against the presence of missiles in Europe.

It is at the core of the danger to German-American friendship, a link tested for centuries. Politicians

The Germans are Europe's most reliable Nato partners. They are the admirers of the USA. And they

Continued from page 1

In view of the arrival of Social Democrats in the Bundestag MPs advocating unacceptable compromise at

The *Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote* was the first New World newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence — in German, and with a modest circulation

The victorious American revolutionaries were then allied with the French. Hessa mercenaries fought on the side of the British, but many defected, married

Many people in the German-speaking world did not know what was going on in America. Despite this Frederick the Great of Prussia signed the first

In 1730, Benjamin Franklin said that what originates in Germany does best in America.

What he meant was not only *Gemütsheil und Gesundheit* (to cheer a sneeze). Nor did he mean just frankfurters, hamburgers, and sauerkraut.

Thomas Jefferson, who formulated most of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, said during a trip on the Rhine in 1788: "Everything in America

There were the joint endeavours to keep the international economy in health and, in particular, the fundamental conventions held in common.

These were a belief in democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

Since the first friendship and trading treaty was concluded between the King of Prussia and the United States in 1785

What irretrievable foreign might possibly justify limited

As for the Bonn government's Helmut Schmidt and Helmut

The German Tribune Friedrich Reinbeck Verlag GmbH, 50 Sahlen

In all correspondence please quote your number, which appears on the masthead

are the people who will most readily resist a Soviet invasion." He said Germans saw no contradiction about being both pro American and against the missiles.

But many Americans don't understand the difference between the Greens and the communists or between pacifists and enemies of the USA.

This could be because not enough young people from each country visit the other country.

There is still much ignorance about Germany in Washington. Exchange programmes have achieved little.

Even politicians realise that more must be done to preserve the friendship that has evolved not only as the result of the Berlin Airlift.

The *Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote* was the first New World newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence — in German, and with a modest circulation

The victorious American revolutionaries were then allied with the French. Hessa mercenaries fought on the side of the British, but many defected, married

Many people in the German-speaking world did not know what was going on in America. Despite this Frederick the Great of Prussia signed the first

In 1730, Benjamin Franklin said that what originates in Germany does best in America.

What he meant was not only *Gemütsheil und Gesundheit* (to cheer a sneeze). Nor did he mean just frankfurters, hamburgers, and sauerkraut.

Thomas Jefferson, who formulated most of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, said during a trip on the Rhine in 1788: "Everything in America

There were the joint endeavours to keep the international economy in health and, in particular, the fundamental conventions held in common.

These were a belief in democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

Since the first friendship and trading treaty was concluded between the King of Prussia and the United States in 1785

What irretrievable foreign might possibly justify limited

As for the Bonn government's Helmut Schmidt and Helmut

The German Tribune Friedrich Reinbeck Verlag GmbH, 50 Sahlen

In all correspondence please quote your number, which appears on the masthead

that doesn't come from England comes from here."

The 13 Krefeld families that went to the New World 300 years ago founded Germantown near Philadelphia and ushered in organised German immigration.

They became the forebears of the 60 million Americans who in the last census said that they were of German descent (thus making German blood the strongest element in the American population, even before the Anglo Saxons).

But the German contribution goes far beyond cars, lederhosen, dirndls and oompah music. It even goes beyond the symbol of the two American political parties — the Republican elephant and the Democrat donkey — which were suggested by the German cartoonist

Germany's position in the world will largely depend on America, said the highly respected German-American political leader, journalist, orator, and dedicated reformer Carl Schurz of

blar, late in the 19th century. He was one of the best-known German-Americans — long before Werner von Braun, Albert Einstein and Harry

But it is also legitimate to ask: What would America's position in Europe be without a close alliance with West Germany?

The political and military interests of the two countries overlap, as the four years since the two-track Nato decision have shown.

This brings us to the main threat of German-American friendship.

Professor Livingston of Georgetown University, who is both a friend of the Germans and a man who mines no words, once said: "The Germans are

Europe's most dependable Nato partners; they are the greatest admirers of the USA; and they are the people who will most readily resist a Soviet invasion."

Germans saw no contradiction in being pro-American (as polls shows) and against the deployment in their country of new American missiles.

But many Americans do not understand this. They also don't understand the difference between the Greens and communists; between pacifists and enemies of the USA.

The reason could be that few young Germans go and explore America. Few young Americans make a point of visiting Germany. Yet Germany — both East and West — warrants much more interest by the superpower America than it actually receives.

The improved Bonn-Washington consultations during the Geneva talks on intermediate range missiles are gratifying. But there is still much ignorance about German affairs on Capitol Hill.

Exchange programmes have achieved little. Nobody in Bonn should therefore be surprised to find that the Kohl government is frequently wrongly assessed. As a result the US Congress has often accused Bonn of being lax in defence matters. And sometimes doubt has been voiced about Germany's

This was even more prevalent during the Schmidt government than it is with today's centre-right government.

President Carsten's state visit cannot put everything on an even keel. But he should emphasise that the two World Wars only strained German-American relations, nothing more.

This was largely due to the generosity of the American nation — a nation the Germans helped build, starting with the Krefelders in 1683.

This is an important point at a time of stepped up propaganda over the deployment in Germany of new US missiles, if the Geneva talks break down.

Enil Böttc (Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 October 1983)

Death and disease on high seas dogged the first migrants

It is exactly 300 years since the first German immigrants, 13 Pietist families from Krefeld, landed in Philadelphia after a tough Atlantic crossing marked by poor food, sickness and death.

The venture almost 200 years after Columbus discovered America triggered a boom. By 1775, when the War of Independence began, there were 250,000 Germans living in North America. In Pennsylvania they accounted for two-thirds of the population.

The influx of religious and economic refugees increased in the 19th century: 5.5 million Germans arrived between 1820 and 1914, including 215,000 in 1854 and 250,000 in 1882.

There was more to emigrating in those days than booking your passage and packing your bags. The German states were not prepared to let people leave at will. It was not until 1815 that free movement was even allowed within

Relief was founded, for the right to emigrate to be enacted.

Before then, those who wanted to leave had to buy their freedom to do so by paying ten per cent of what they possessed.

Yet so many left that the worried German principalities spoke of depopulation.

But once the depopulation worry was overcome the authorities seized on emigration as a welcome chance to get rid of people getting social security benefits and black sheep.

The tide of emigrants swelled to the point where America introduced legislation to stop the influx of paupers, criminals and prostitutes.

From the 1820s, the Germans sailed from the French port of Le Havre. But soon the German ports of Bremen and Bremerhaven entered the emigration business and lured passengers to German ships by offering them good accommodation and organisation.

Only 50,000 Germans sailed from Hamburg between 1836 and 1850. Six times as many sailed from Bremen.

And it took until 1871, when the

Europe's most dependable Nato partners; they are the greatest admirers of the USA; and they are the people who will most readily resist a Soviet invasion."

Germans saw no contradiction in being pro-American (as polls shows) and against the deployment in their country of new American missiles.

But many Americans do not understand this. They also don't understand the difference between the Greens and communists; between pacifists and enemies of the USA.

The reason could be that few young Germans go and explore America. Few young Americans make a point of visiting Germany. Yet Germany — both East and West — warrants much more interest by the superpower America than it actually receives.

The improved Bonn-Washington consultations during the Geneva talks on intermediate range missiles are gratifying. But there is still much ignorance about German affairs on Capitol Hill.

Exchange programmes have achieved little. Nobody in Bonn should therefore be surprised to find that the Kohl government is frequently wrongly assessed. As a result the US Congress has often accused Bonn of being lax in defence matters. And sometimes doubt has been voiced about Germany's

This was even more prevalent during the Schmidt government than it is with today's centre-right government.

President Carsten's state visit cannot put everything on an even keel. But he should emphasise that the two World Wars only strained German-American relations, nothing more.

This was largely due to the generosity of the American nation — a nation the Germans helped build, starting with the Krefelders in 1683.

This is an important point at a time of stepped up propaganda over the deployment in Germany of new US missiles, if the Geneva talks break down.

Enil Böttc (Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 October 1983)

But Hamburg began to catch up. In 1892 the shipping line Hamburg Amerikanische Packetfahrt Actien Gesellschaft (Hapag) built barracks along its piers for 1,400 emigrants.

In 1900/01 a whole settlement of temporary housing was built on city property in the port of Hamburg at a cost of 700,000 marks.

This was not done out of sympathy. It was to quarantine people arriving in Hamburg for embarkation in case they had diseases.

The emigrants did not particularly mind the quarantine. There was even offered luxury accommodation for those who could afford it.

Hapag's service on board ship included shops, entertainment and dancing.

Hamburg's transit facilities became an attraction: "There's a city within city that seems transplanted from foreign parts. Slavic men stroll the main streets wearing boots and curious hats. There are beards of women in colourful skirts," is how journalist Norbert Jacques described it.

Not everybody succeeded in America. One in five returned after a short while either from homesickness, to spend the last years in their native land, or because they simply could not cope with an alien way of life.

Chela Schütte (Die Welt, 6 October 1983)

Nuclear war by mistake unlikely, says minister

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner says that as far as one can reasonably tell there can be no possibility of a nuclear war being waged by mistake.

Comparisons drawn with the shooting down of the Korean airliner are in his view inappropriate.

Interviewed in Bonn, Herr Wörner said both superpowers had taken far-reaching precautions to ensure that mistakes couldn't happen.

Computers might be growing increasingly perfect, but in America he was sure the decisions were taken by people, not by machines.

There were also various security stages. Mishaps involving technical hitches that triggered warnings had generally been spotted, and remedial action taken, by people at the first level of security checks.

Following this first level there were at least four further stages involving technical checks or surveillance by individuals.

As for the shooting down of the Korean Jumbo, Herr Wörner said it had been the result of calculated considerations on the part of high-ranking Soviet leaders.

The airliner had been pursued for so long by Soviet aircraft that the decision to shoot it down could not have been taken locally, let alone by the pilot.

The incident had been an instance of a dictatorial regime making brutal use of its military might, whatever the motives might have been.

There had definitely been no question of nervousness or of automatic responses being involved.

In principle, international regulations were sufficient to deal with airliners that were off-course and in sensitive air space.

They were adequate, he felt, as long as they were obeyed by. But we ought also to try and improve them.

Opinion poll findings that over 75 per cent of Germans questioned were opposed to the stationing of new missiles had not surprised him in the least, Herr Wörner said.

It was only natural to respond in this way. The question had been phrased in such a way that virtually no other answer was possible.

Yet surveys had also clearly shown that an overwhelming majority of Germans felt Nato was indispensable and were in favour of the Bundeswehr and of defence commitments.

Wherever open days were held at military installations or recruits were sworn in at public ceremonies, the general public showed keen interest.

The so-called peace movement was only a tiny minority in relation to the population as a whole.

The electorate had voted in favour of the present Bonn government by a clear majority and were well aware of the government's views on security issues.

An attempt was now being made to undermine this majority decision by a minority. The government was not going to allow itself to be irritated by this bid, and certainly not to be persuaded to change its policy.

"We are not going to allow anxiety to spread, an anxiety that some are artificially fomenting and others may genuinely feel," he said.

"There is no risk of war and will be none in future provided we continue to pursue the right peace policy."

He was also questioned on the declarations by the World Council of Churches in Vancouver stigmatising the manufacture and stationing of nuclear weapons.

Herr Wörner said he took such statements seriously, but in this case the declaration steered clear of crucial issues and reached the wrong conclusions.

"Peace is not in jeopardy because weapons exist, not even nuclear weapons, but because there are dictatorships that are prepared to use their weapons as a threat."

He had been disappointed that the World Council of Churches had made not the slightest distinction between aggressors and defenders, between democracy and dictatorship.

Oskar Lafontaine, Social Democratic mayor of Saarbrücken and a member of the SPD national executive, has suggested that Germany should withdraw from Nato.

Herr Wörner said that would mean forfeiting security, and with it peace. It would not be long before the Federal Republic bowed to the dictates of the Soviet Union, where occupied by Russia or not.

Egon Balir, SPD disarmament expert and another member of the national

Former Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has reiterated his support in principle for the Nato dual-track decision policy he largely helped to frame in the late 1970s.

Speaking in Hamburg he said that on Eurostrategic weapons the Soviet Union had disregarded solemn public undertakings and established a clear superiority, making it essential to redress the balance.

Herr Schmidt outlined his views on a new Nato strategy at a ceremony held to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Bundeswehr University.

He was strongly critical of Moscow. In connection with the Soviet medium-range missile build-up he accused Russia of having gravely violated both the 1972 US-Soviet declaration of principles and the 1978 German-Soviet Bonn declarations.

In both cases Moscow acknowledged that any further arms build-up in the medium-range sector was unnecessary from the viewpoint of Soviet security.

Yet since 1976, he claimed, the Russians had installed a new SS-20 launching facility per week.

Herr Schmidt, who was ousted as Chancellor last October, said his views on the medium-range missile talks had not changed either.

In the Salt (now Start) talks the superpowers had limited the nuclear risk to their own territory. It was now up to them to reduce the dangers threatening Germans too.

He said that in his view the "walk in woods" proposal drawn up in Geneva in the summer of 1982 would have been a compromise both sides could have accepted.

Outlining his general view on the role

executive, has said that if the West were to go ahead with missile modernisation the East would install even faster missiles in return. Herr Wörner said that was just a bluff. The Soviet Union had developed shorter-range missiles long before Nato arrived at its dual-track decision in December 1979. They were the SS-21, 22 and 23, and the SS-21 was already being stationed. It was regrettable that Herr Bahr, who knew better, had adopted the East's argument.

Anyone who wanted to deport from the dual-track decision should say so openly. To want to postpone missile modernisation if the Russians showed no signs of willingness to compromise at Geneva was to fail to appreciate the problem of the existing Soviet missile build-up.

Anyone who wanted to postpone missile modernisation had to realise that this was making disarmament talks pointless. Those who advocated postponement today would find reasons to advocate it tomorrow.

In the meantime the Soviet Union would calmly carry on with its own missile build-up.

Two points that arise from the Soviet arms programme particularly worry Herr Wörner. One is Soviet superiority in the conventional sector, the other that Moscow is going ahead with its nu-

Schmidt sticks by missile decision



Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt... no change of mind. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

of nuclear weapons, he said: "The world will continue to be hallmarked by the fact that atomic weapons exist."

But with regard to the defence of Europe he added that he felt that as the 1980s went by, the idea of first use of

nuclear weapons by Nato in a conventional Eastern attack increasingly come to be viewed as acceptable.

In the end it would be seen as a necessary evil, which was why the world would need to look for means to ensure that it was the other side that decided on first use.

A conventional balance between Europe and the Soviet Union, like the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Treaty, was not enough.

The crucial shortcoming of the balance was the armed forces manpower reserves capable of mobilisation.

It was wrong to believe that soldiers could be replaced by high-tech weapons. That was why the United States had abolished its military draft. If all Western armies possessed the same technology, it would be no means better for the West to resort to an arms race. The first use of nuclear weapons would be a response.

The West's defence strategy on effect on the other side that was od war when it was credible. Com-

"In this respect we suffer from increasing shortcomings in our public opinion." This applied to the West's defence capability and to the universities.

If that were not to change, the West's defence capability would be seriously doubtful. The Soviet Union, Herr Schmidt said, jump to the conclusion.

RDiger

TRADE

Plans to steady commodity prices fall through

Third World countries depend on a range of commodities for foreign exchange. Falling commodity prices over a few years have hit these countries hard. Plans were drawn up to stabilise commodity prices but these have fallen through.

The biblical story of Joseph, who hoarded wheat during the seven fat years and sold it in the lean years, is the recorded case of crisis management with buffer stocks.

This first attempt at an active commodity policy was supported by the forecasting techniques of Joseph's dream interpreter. It was therefore much more successful than similar attempts today.

The aim of the existing five commodity agreements on coffee, cocoa, sugar, wheat and tin is to balance demand and supply on world markets and prevent price fluctuations.

When the price drops below a preset threshold, and that commodity is in short supply, the buffer stock managers buy it on the market and stockpile it. Conversely, when the price rises beyond a point some of the stockpiled commodity is thrown on the market.

The world economic crisis of the past few years has shown this mechanism to be totally ineffectual. Fuelled by

the commodity future deals in London and New York ownership can change rapidly and prices have fallen between 10

per cent. A basket of the world's 30 most important commodities has dropped 19 per cent since 1980.

Cocoa prices plummeted through the bottom benchmark of US\$1 per ton when buffer stockpiles were exhausted and coffers were empty. The agreement expired at the end of last year. The world market price of cocoa has now fallen to 76 cents.

Price fluctuations are disastrous for developing countries: 24 of them get 40 per cent of their export earnings from the single, Uganda 97 per cent, and Colombia, Germany's main supplier, 65 per cent, are most dependent.

Coffee is the Third World's most important trading commodity after oil. It accounts for \$11bn a year.

The representatives of 48 producer and consumer countries met in London last month. They started their meeting with a gala dinner to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first commodity agreement between the industrial and developing worlds.

The 1983 agreement was preceded by a dramatic price slump that hit the coffee republics like a sledgehammer. Washington was not prepared to wait for the Cuban revolution to spread to the rest of Latin America. So it joined forces with Brazil, which accounts for a third of the world's coffee production. In a bid to stabilise export earnings,

after a severe frost in 1975 had depressed more than half of Brazil's coffee harvest, prices quadrupled and the stabilisation bid failed. But in 1977 coffee prices dropped below pre-frost levels.

It was not until the major Latin American producers formed the Bogota Commodity Exchange and so halted

the price decline that the USA decided to revive the shelved coffee agreement.

The idea now was no longer to use buffer stocks to stabilise prices but to impose export quotas on the individual producer countries.

When the price drops below \$1.20 a pound the quotas are reduced, and when it rises above \$1.40 they are raised.

What buffer stocks failed to achieve with other commodities has worked with the quota system for coffee. Prices have been relatively stable since 1980 despite a considerable surplus production.

Present global stocks amount to 40 million sacks (of 60 kilos each). This is about half a year's harvest.

To get rid of the coffee that does not fall under the export quotas, many producer countries sold to non-members of the agreement at dumping prices.

The central issue at the London meeting was therefore how to overcome this split in the market.

The consumer countries urged that the existing price ranges should be reduced or at least maintained to prevent giving an incentive for over-production.

Developing countries, on the other hand, argued that the industrial goods they import are also becoming more expensive all the time.

A 16-ton lorry cost Brazil the equivalent of 66 sacks of coffee in 1969. It now costs double in coffee terms.

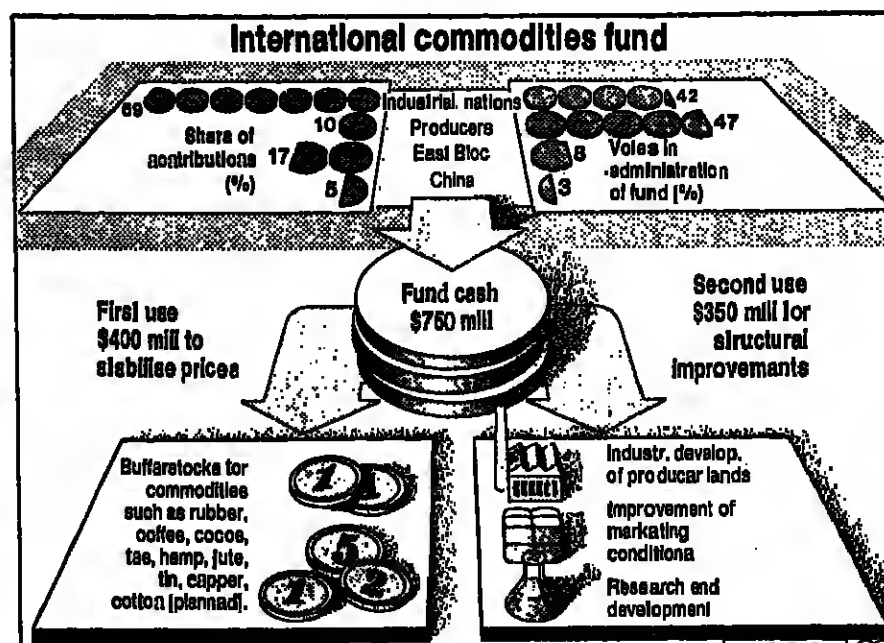
Negotiations are not yet concluded, but pundits expect that the old price range of \$1.20 to \$1.40 will be retained.

This will be made easier by the fact that one bone of contention was settled last year when the producer countries reached agreement on how to divide the cake.

Sugar, which is now being negotiated in Geneva is a more difficult issue. The main reason why no agreement has yet been reached is that the world's second largest exporter, the EEC, has not been prepared to agree.

The Community nations want to prevent their surplus production that is thrown on the world market at subsidised prices from being reduced. Germany alone produces 25 per cent more sugar than it consumes.

The stabilisation of Third World commodity earnings has been a key



issue of all North-South conferences since the mid-1970s.

At the 1976 Unctad conference in Nairobi, the developing nations presented a draft integrated raw material programme centring around a common fund for all commodity agreements.

The industrial nations have long opposed such a "central marketing authority" that would interfere with market forces. But in 1980, when they succeeded in watering down the original blueprint, they changed their mind.

The new fund was to have been divided in two: \$400m in support of existing and new commodity agreements and \$350m to improve the market position of those products that, for whatever reasons, cannot be regulated through agreements.

The parties to the agreement were given until 30 September to ratify the common fund.

As a precaution, Bonn set aside DM35m in its 1984 budget (the German share) but there is little likelihood that the money will ever be used.

Dieter Keschull of the Hamburg-based HWWA Institute considers the common fund idea "as good as dead".

To come into force, the agreement must be ratified by at least 90 countries which would provide two-thirds of the money.

On the day before the deadline only 56 countries accounting for 37 per cent of the money were prepared to ratify. Among the major countries missing were the USA and the Soviet Union.

The Americans criticise the fund for its interference in market forces, and the USSR blames the former colonial powers for the fact that the Third World

countries have developed monocultures and depend on so few commodities for export earnings.

According to Keschull, many developing countries are now also sceptical about the fund. They argue that money would be taken out of functioning commodity agreements to support those that do not work.

This is also the reason why the coffee countries in particular are no longer interested.

But their hopes could prove deceptive. A World Bank study shows that coffee prices will be lagging behind those for industrial goods until the 1990s.

Demand for coffee is unlikely to rise by more than one per cent a year. So everything will depend on whether the producer countries manage to reduce their output, the study says.

The coffee agreement cannot function in the long run as long as there are constant surpluses. Less is more in the tricky game of export quotas, world market prices and export earnings, the report says.

The imbalance of North-South trade has many faces. Bangladesh, Asia's poor house, is earning less and less from its only important export commodity, jute.

The spreading use of synthetics has reduced world jute consumption from an annual 800,000 tons to 530,000 tons in ten years. The price per ton has tumbled from \$600 to \$165.

Other Third World countries are at the mercy of speculators and multinational corporations that dictate prices and pocket most of the proceeds.

Sri Lanka sees no more than 15 to 20 pfennigs of every deutschmark German spends on tea. The same applies to Kenya. Tea is a crass case because new producers in Africa are now competing with the traditional growers in Asia. Moreover, as the producers are disillusioned this makes common action impossible.

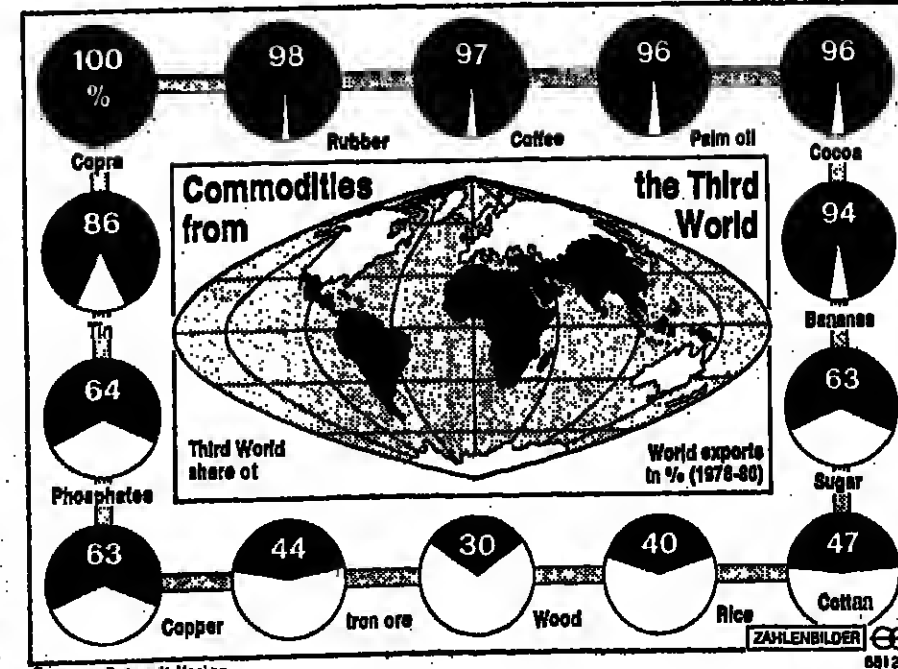
The developing countries had planned great hopes for the common fund on the Unctad VI conference in Belgrade earlier this year.

Though Bonn had promised to ratify the fund this year, the Bonn-London-Washington axis was not prepared to make any further concessions.

Trade barriers and high tariffs on industrial goods imposed by the EEC and the USA have prevented Third World countries from processing their raw materials and exporting the finished products to the industrial world.

But the West is also increasingly —

Continued on page 8



Why firms won't hire more apprentices

Many companies are reluctant to hire apprentices because of the cost of training them, according to a report.

The survey, by the CDU economic council (*Wirtschaftsrat*), reveals that 45 per cent of companies polled gave this reason for not taking on more apprentices.

Pay was only one item. In 1980 it averaged out at DM5,954 a year. But the gross cost per apprentice was about DM17,000 a year. It was as high as DM30,000 in some cases.

The survey was carried out among 1,200 firms. It shows that even the most expensive apprentice is cheaper than a university student. But the student's costs are paid by the taxpayer.

Apprentices spend a short time actually at the work bench, say the respondent companies. By the time two days a week at school, training time outside the company and 30 days annual holiday were deducted, the apprentice worked for about only 90 days a year.

This made training costs DM23.70 an hour. A qualified factory worker in 1980 earned only DM23.40 an hour.

The *Wirtschaftsrat* recommends that schooling be cut back and on-the-job training be increased. Apprentices pay should not be increased over the next few years.

Companies made about 40 other objections to hiring apprentices. They included youth protection laws such as a ban on Sunday work and job restrictions because certain work was regarded as dangerous.

Education standards were criticised. Forty-four per cent of the firms said a major reason for rejecting applicants was lack of education, particularly maths and spelling.

The situation was not helped by vocational schools. They gave no German-language courses, so apprentices could not improve through formal education.

The Federal Labour Office also comes under fire. The government employment bureau is accused of sending wrong applicants to wrong companies.

"Counsellors often know neither the companies nor job qualifications. This ignorance results in misdirecting applicants which leads to not only delays in



Young man's new chapter

Out of the apprenticeship. A newly qualified book printer is symbolically ducked in a ceremony dating back to the time of Gutenberg. This occasion was in Mainz.

(Photo: dpa)

placement but unnecessary frustration for the applicant."

The Labour Office should give aptitude tests to applicants before sending them for interviews. This would reduce the number of rejections and multiple applications.

Complaints were also made about behaviour. This was sometimes bad enough for apprentices to be dismissed during their probation time.

Some chewed gum, wore punk clothes and even appeared slightly drunk at interviews, reported the survey.

Among the most frequent reason for

dismissal were lack of interest, lack of motivation and listlessness. It was suggested that the reason for poor performance should be sought in schools and in the home.

Part of the reason was the negative image given to businessmen through some of the media. This was partly influenced by the trade unions.

The survey gives no clue about how much the businessman himself is to blame for his own poor image.

Wolfgang Hoffmann
(Die Zeit, 7 October 1983)

World commodity prices

Continued from page 5
though indirectly — falling tin consequences of the raw materials crisis.

The inability of many developing countries to repay their debts is as much part of this crisis as is German industry's declining exports to the Third World. Last year's exports to the developing world were down three per cent, and this year's figures are stagnating.

At least 1.35 million jobs depend on exports to the Third World, says the German Institute for Economic Research.

Bonn's cure-all for raw materials-producing developing countries is the stabilisation of export earnings. Its idea is that world market mechanisms should no longer be tampered with. Instead, countries hit by commodity price

slumps should be compensated for their losses.

This system has been operating in a rudimentary fashion between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) since the 1970s.

The Community set aside about DM1.5bn to stabilise commodity earnings during the five-year period of the Lomé Convention.

But the Brussels stabilisation coffers emptied quickly as a wide range of commodity prices plummeted.

Negotiations on Lomé are now beginning in Brussels. To prove that the stabilisation system works, the Community will have to boost its funding for it.

Roland Bunzenhal

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 October 1983)

Cash grant for trade training

The Bonn Cabinet has approved a DM160m plan to provide training for between 7,000 and 8,000 young people.

Federal Education Minister Wilms says the money will be used to improve the quality of apprenticeship training. The amount is high. Priority will be given to girls.

The scheme will not be used to subsidise company training. All training will be non-company. Trade guilds and chambers of commerce and industry have been asked to support the scheme.

The programme will be implemented by 30 September. The first group of 1,000 young people will begin by 31 March next year.

The pay is to be reduced to 10 per cent of the normal wage for the first month. The government will cover the rest.

Training is to be switched to apprenticeships as soon as possible. There will be no need for

German paradox: economy improves despite exports

German economy is slowly improving. For the first time since the war, the country's growth rate is positive, but despite them.

Why the upturn expected after the end of government in Bonn has been so small is not clear.

In the first seven months of the year, exports rose by 2.2 per cent compared to the same period last year. That is more than DM5bn.

Major customers, France and the United States, cut their German imports by nine and 16 per cent respectively.

The pay is to be reduced to 10 per cent of the normal wage for the first month. The government will cover the rest.

Training is to be switched to apprenticeships as soon as possible. There will be no need for

There will be no need for

Unemployment in Germany

Under 20s out of work (first quarter figures)

1980 74,280
1981 101,040
1982 102,100

As proportion of total population

3.5%

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

As proportion of total population

Lambsdorff in China to promote trade

German-Chinese trade is picking up after a long time last year. German exports to China rose by well over 40 per cent in the first seven months of this year against the same period in 1982.

The reason is that some projects that have been slowed down in the early years are now being speeded up.

Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff is in Peking for the 10th anniversary of the German-Chinese Joint Economic Committee.

Lambsdorff is aiming to promote trade and industrial cooperation. He will sign an investment promotion agreement intended to encourage joint ventures between German and Chinese companies.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

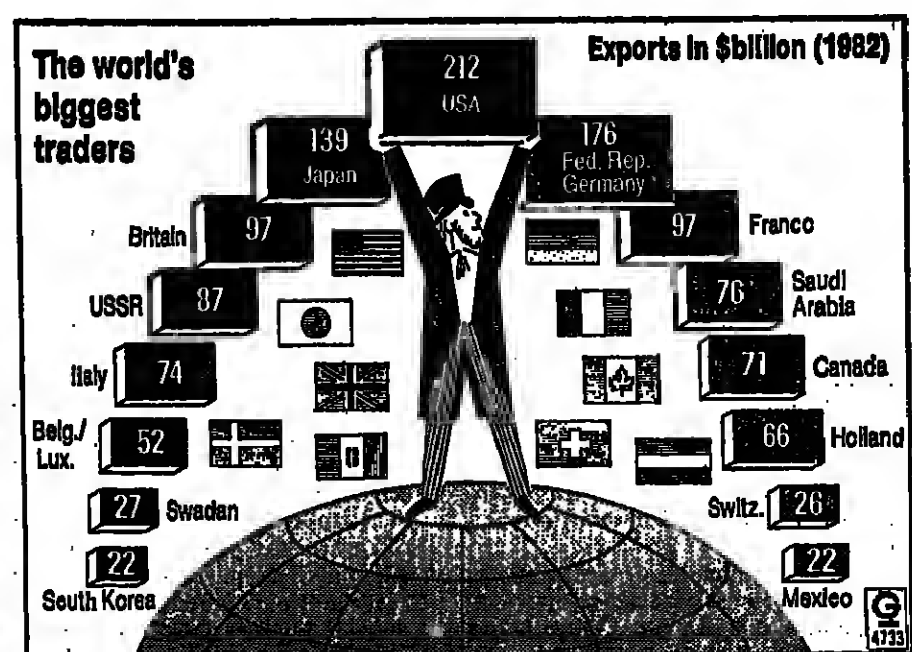
The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.

The number of applicants for jobs in China has risen sharply. In the first seven months of this year, 30,000 more people applied than in the same period last year.



balance trade figures by reducing domestic power.

This means that the European market will become smaller and exports considerably more difficult — serious for a country as export-dependent as Germany.

Major trading partners like Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium cannot afford to maintain the present level of imports.

And France, by far the most important buyer of German goods, wants to eliminate its trade deficit which last year was FF100bn.

West Germany accounts for close to half of France's deficit, so it is obvious who will have to suffer.

Balanced trade between France and Germany can only be achieved if the franc is not overvalued against the deutschmark. But that is exactly what it is only six months after the last devaluation.

Hans Georg Linder
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 3 October 1983)

Pipeline: Soviet cunning won big advantages

They pay for the deficit caused by the low rate. So exporters given the loans had to pay the difference between the terms agreed on and actual costs.

This meant increasing prices to uncompetitive levels. In some cases as high as 33 per cent. German firms were expected to win the major share of the DM10bn value of the pipeline contracts but in the end they cornered only a small amount.

German firms which did win contracts had to accept low profits or even

losses just to keep production going and keep jobs.

Yet it was the German companies who had played a leading part in the tedious and politically controversial negotiations.

Italy and France managed to secure privileged positions for themselves.

The Soviets were equally clever in playing one country against the other when it came to negotiating prices, writes Lehahn.

There was a sort of "negotiation merry-go-round" in the course of which the Russian delegates sounded out German suppliers first and then did the same in Italy, France, Japan and other countries.

In this way they negotiated in stages but parallel with competing countries and suppliers.

This enabled them to almost simultaneously present competing Western firms with tenders they received from others, using this to obtain the best terms.

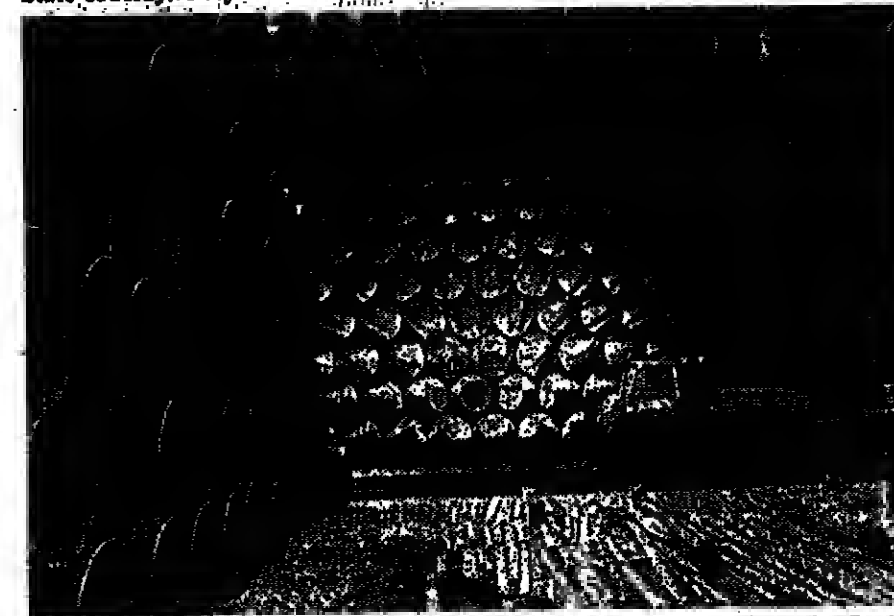
In the years of negotiating, Western exporters lowered their prices up to 60 per cent, according to Soviet sources.

Iron and steel group Salzgitter withdrew a bid because Soviet demands were not commercially feasible.

A Dutch bid to obtain better terms and conditions by forming an interest group of all suppliers prompted the Soviets to cancel all orders from Dutch firms. The Netherlands responded by waiving additional gas purchases from the Soviet Union.

The Japanese showed their way into what was originally a purely Soviet-European project to the extent where they then captured the lion's share of the orders.

dpa
(Köln Nachrichten, 30 September 1983)

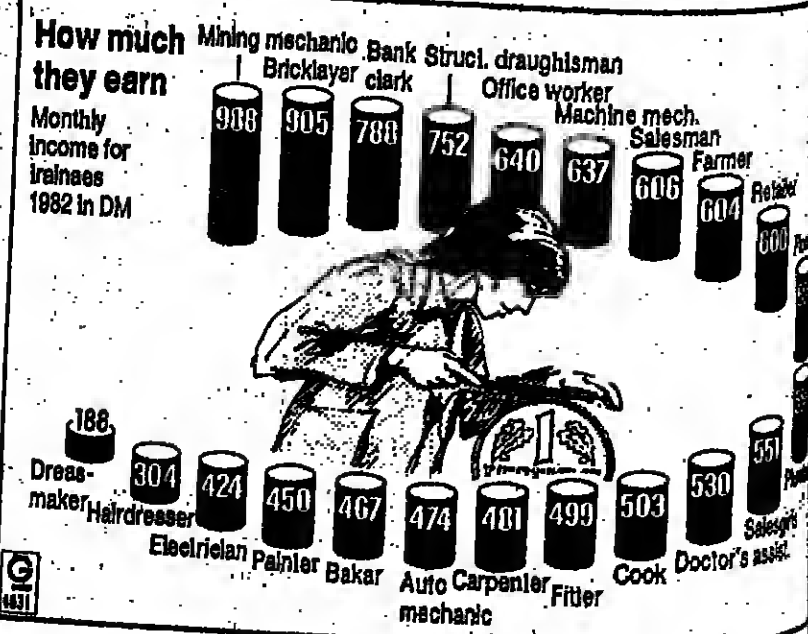


Gas pipeline sections made by Mannesmann ready for shipment to the Soviet Union. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Where young people work

Most popular careers (figures Jan. 1982)

Boys	Girls
Auto mechanics 86,724	107,555 Salesgirls
Electricians 57,515	62,041 Hairdressers
Machine engin. 45,602	40,463 Businesswomen
Cabinet makers 41,703	37,930 Doctor's assist.
Bricklayers 36,210	35,397 Indust. businesswoman
Painters 34,938	27,323 Retailers
Gas, water fitters 33,134	27,092 Dental assistants
Salesman 28,005	26,299 Bank clerks
Bakers 24,125	23,714 Solicitor's clerks
Toolmakers 22,060	20,453 Sales
Fitters 21,927	18,310 Office workers
Bank clerks 21,733	16,100 Accountants' clerks



■ AVIATION

New short-haul Airbus in service by 1988, says minister

France, Britain and the Federal Republic have agreed on going ahead with the third Airbus, the A320, according to the French Transport Minister, Charles Fiterman. No formal agreement has been made about the proposed 150-seater, but it was intended to be in service by 1988.

Little over a year ago European aviation industry executives were confident the Airbus would give Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas a good run for their money — at least in non-American markets.

But they were beset by a trough of low pressure faster than expected and now have good reason to view the prospects with misgivings.

Sales of the wide-bodied A 300 and A 310 models have dropped and the

Airbus consortium lacks the cash to research and develop a new model it hopes will bring in business.

Airbus Industrie is a government consortium to which France and Germany each hold a 37.9-per-cent stake, Britain 20 per cent and Spain 4.2 per cent.

So there is an obvious temptation to offset the shortage of cash by resorting to the taxpayer. Indeed, governments have no choice in the matter.

If the four countries want to stay in business in high tech and provide highly qualified jobs they have no option but to put on a brave face and pay for the privilege.

So there are no doubts in Bonn that the Federal government will soon be increasing the Airbus's credit backing from DM4.1bn to DM4.5bn. The limit was increased from DM2.85bn as recently as in March last year.

In all, Bonn has ploughed roughly DM7.8bn into European aviation projects in the form of R & D subsidies, manufacturing grants and sales credit facilities.

It is more than doubtful whether the German taxpayer will ever be able to recoup a single deutschemark.

Yet the market conditions for aircraft manufacturers are fairly favourable in the long term, at least if market research findings are any guide.

Between now and the turn of the century, the pundits claim, airlines will need to invest roughly DM700bn in new aircraft merely to replace and maintain fleet strength.

But these prospects for the future are scant consolation in a bleak present. In the wake of the worldwide recession IATA airlines have no cash to even consider buying new aircraft.

Last year they were collectively DM5bn in the red. Besides, as a result of mistaken expectations in the 1970s they all have massive surplus capacity.

About 150 up-to-the-minute wide-bodied jet airliners are currently up for sale on the used aircraft market.

This is naturally reflected in manufacturers' order books. In the late 1970s nearly 700 new aircraft a year were ordered. Those were the days!

In 1981 sales were down to 330. Last year only 220 airliners were sold. And

the Airbus has been particularly hard-hit by the trend.

There were 46 orders in 1981, 17 in 1982; but so far this year there have been only four. What is more, 12 of the Airbuses ordered in 1982 are doubtful.

Fifty-one options taken out in earlier years have not been clinched as firm orders, as had been expected.

It has come as a serious blow to European aircraft manufacturers. A few years ago, with orders pouring in, they planned to step up production to 88 Airbuses a year.

They must now request the supervisory board to cut capacity back to 45 planes a year by 1985. Then, or so market researchers say, airlines will be back in the market for orders.

There are similar trends in other markets, but the European manufacturers are not in a position to respond anywhere near as flexibly as their American competitors.

European welfare provisions rule out hire and fire terms of employment common in the United States. So staff cannot simply be laid off when times are hard.

Yet once, in the 1970s, when Boeing gravely misjudged Jumbo orders, the US company was able to pare down its work force from 120,000 to less than 70,000 in next to no time.

As if such problems were not enough, the Airbus people also face the problem of deciding what management policy to adopt for the 1990s.

That may seem a long way ahead, but decisions must soon be taken because it is years before an aircraft makes its way from the drawing board to the runway.

If it were up to the manufacturers, Airbus engineers and technicians would start work today rather than tomorrow on a new aircraft envisaged as the A 320.

Unlike the models built so far, it would not be a wide-bodied airliner. It is envisaged as a short- and medium-haul plane seating 150 passengers.

Market research people say that from 1988 until well into the 1990s world demand for an aircraft in this category will amount to between 2,500 and 3,500 units.

If Europe were to succeed in cornering, say, 800 of those orders it would

fare well. The break-even point would be reached once sales passed 1,000.

Yet despite such glowing forecasts the Airbus executives have given the go-ahead. Of the 12 involved, clearly only three are prepared at this stage to believe in the forecasts.

The others are not only the development costs, which to total DM5bn, given that cannot be developed from models.

Airlines are also clinging to themselves. Only Air Inter, both under pressure from the French government, have agreed to order 75 planes in all.

But that is not enough to get the Airbus management, which is more launching customers, recently noted.

"Once we have 100 orders we can get on with it," Lufthansa is not loath to launch customer for the Airbus and the two Airbus models always found the experience entirely satisfactory.

So Airbus had great hopes. Airways, Britain, after all, cannot stake in the Airbus project. British Airways have yet to be heard of.

But to the bitter disappointment of the Airbus nonmanufacturers, ways decided a few weeks ago by the airlines.

The airline is so short of cash that it was certain to show a loss in the option of leasing the aircraft rather than buying them outright.

Lufthansa would much prefer to have been Germanic tribesmen long-range airliner rather than medium-haul model.

This long-range model could be deployed on routes currently served by Boeing 707s but with not enough to warrant running 747s or DC-10s.

An aircraft of this kind, which he based on the existing Airbus A300, would cost much less than the A300, or Augusta Treverorum, as the Romans called the city.

But sales could only amount to 400 to 500 units, which is considered not to be enough.

So there can be no overall dilemma Airbus Industrie has executive Bernard Lathière said the future can only hold a small favour of the smaller A 320.

(Rheinischer Merkur)

THE ARTS

France, Germany, Luxembourg share their Roman past

DIE WELT

Romans on the Moselle and the Saar are an exhibition jointly organised by museums in Metz, Luxembourg, Saarbrücken and Trier.

But that is not enough to get the Airbus management, which is more launching customers, recently noted.

"Once we have 100 orders we can get on with it," Lufthansa is not loath to launch customer for the Airbus and the two Airbus models always found the experience entirely satisfactory.

So Airbus had great hopes. Airways, Britain, after all, cannot stake in the Airbus project. British Airways have yet to be heard of.

But to the bitter disappointment of the Airbus nonmanufacturers, ways decided a few weeks ago by the airlines.

The airline is so short of cash that it was certain to show a loss in the option of leasing the aircraft rather than buying them outright.

Lufthansa would much prefer to have been Germanic tribesmen long-range airliner rather than medium-haul model.

This long-range model could be deployed on routes currently served by Boeing 707s but with not enough to warrant running 747s or DC-10s.

An aircraft of this kind, which he based on the existing Airbus A300, would cost much less than the A300, or Augusta Treverorum, as the Romans called the city.

But sales could only amount to 400 to 500 units, which is considered not to be enough.

So there can be no overall dilemma Airbus Industrie has executive Bernard Lathière said the future can only hold a small favour of the smaller A 320.

(Rheinischer Merkur)

may arguably be that museums have held on to their prize exhibits and mainly lent stock normally kept out of sight.

Only copies and reproductions of mosaics, frescoes and friezes are available. The same is true of sensitive and irreplaceable statues and glassware.

Yet the objects on show are invariably important and worth seeing. They would be capable of fulfilling their representative and didactic purpose if only they were suitably presented.

Heinz Cüppers, curator of the Trier museum and the man in charge of the exhibition, is well aware of the problem but feels the solution has arrived at a tolerable one.

It is an argument that could well be put forward. Besides, the exhibition is due to be held next in Paris, in the Musée du Luxembourg.

There it will have enough room and can be enjoyed in its full splendour, just as its intentions will be more clearly apparent.

In Paris the original bronzes from Dalheim, Luxembourg, will be on show, lent by the Louvre. In Rolandseck only replicas are on show.

Disregarding the tolerable dilemma of presentation, the exhibition naturally fulfils its purposes in Rolandseck too, especially by means of the comprehensive catalogue.

Visitors soon learn to differentiate between the highly developed Hellenistically-tinged court art, primitive popular art and more ambitious provincial art.

All can be seen in a wide range of sculpture, tombstones and statuettes, arts and crafts, mosaics and frescoes. But art is not the foremost consideration.

Culture must be viewed in the literal Latin sense as cultivation of the soil and of living conditions, and of this the exhibition provides telling examples.

Agriculture and wine-growing are shown, as is the Celts' continued predilection for beer. Trade and transport, shipping and artisan craftsmanship are illustrated.

Evolution

So is the evolution from artisan craftsmanship to factory manufacture and the transition from primitive settlements to villages and towns with considerable luxury.

The towns had amenities such as baths, schools, libraries, amphitheatres and sports facilities.

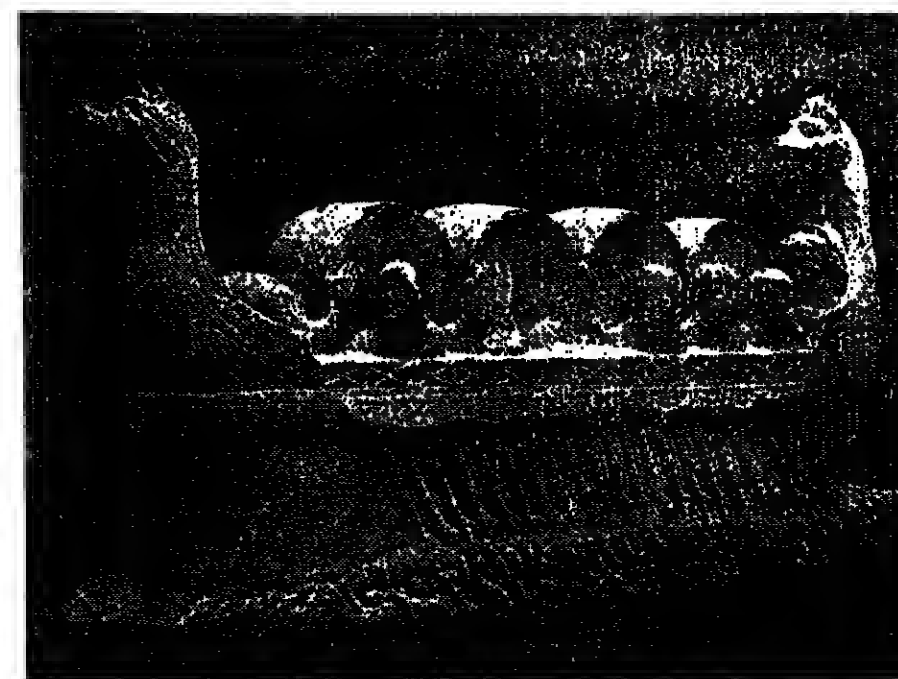
In Trier, a capital city, the transition naturally took a course different from developments in the countryside or in provincial towns.

Individual museums have contributed specific exhibits to make these points. But a feature they all illustrate is the religious tolerance of the era.

Local, Roman and imported cults and gods existed side by side, developed similarities or were mixed, until Christianity finally gained pre-eminence.

But even then, traces of heathen religions long survived.

Die Welt, 20 September 1983



Roman relief of wine boat, a 3rd century AD artefact on show at the Roman exhibition. (Photo: Catalogue)

Magic meeting to reveal link between myth and reality

The magician has always been a classical fairy tale figure, so Fairy Tales and Shamanism was a fitting topic for this year's gathering of the European Fairy Tale Association in Bad Karlshausen.

The sorcerer or shaman is often in league with the powers of darkness. Love alone enables fairy tale heroes and heroines to surpass his powers.

Frogs become princes again and trees princesses. But popular myths and fairy tales are not only peopled by avil magicians.

The staunchest opponents of sorcerers in league with the forces of the underworld are good magicians such as Merlin in the Arthurian legends and Gandalf in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

In the tales handed down by Asian and Indian tribes the shamans fight for good causes and avail themselves of the services of supernatural forces.

Shamans are usually mortals but initiated into extraordinary powers. They can speak with the dead, travel to astral worlds, visit or be visited by spirits and converse with animals and plants.

They have a staff similar to the magician's wand and a drum they use to put themselves in an ecstatic trance. In this state they can establish contact with the spirits.

Belief in the supernatural powers of shamans and magicians has never entirely died in civilisations beyond Europe, and now doubts have been cast on reason and common sense, belief in shamans has undergone a revival in the West.

There has been at least a partial renaissance, and a powerful one, of what last century, in an age of science and technology, was banished to the realm of fairy tales.

The revival of interest in astrology, spiritualism and clairvoyance testifies to the trend. So does work at many a serious university department.

So the topic at the Karlshausen conference, the 29th congress of the European Fairy Tale Association, was a timely one.

In his opening address Heino Gehrts, the Altmölin fairy tale research scholar who organised the gathering, sounded a warning note against false hopes.

The conference, he said, was not intended to encourage the emergence of

bobby shamanists in previously unprobed areas of the occult.

The aim was to sound out the roots of sorcery in popular fairy tales and to illustrate the close links between myth and reality.

The fairy tale might be unreal but it reflected historical and cultural trends and the quintessence of popular belief.

Issues covered ranged from the first testimony to shamanism in the cave paintings at Lascaux via shamans and sorcerers in sagas and fairy tales in East and West to the activities of present-day miracle healers in the Philippines.

Professor Sigrid Lichtenberger, of Saarbrücken, dealt in an outstanding lecture with shamans in Germanic mythology. Shamanism, she said, was by no means limited to the Asiatic peoples.

In Germanic mythology Odin, the lord of the worlds, has all the attributes of a shaman. He makes use of animal spirits such as ravens, wolves and so on. He travels to the underworld to free Baldur. His eight-legged horse Sleipnir is a cosmic symbol.

Sleipnir's counterpart occurs in the shamanistic beliefs of Siberian tribes for whom the shaman rides to the realm of the dead on an eight-legged horse.

Professor Horst Krehner, of Berlin, added to Frau Lichtenberger's findings in his paper on Archaeological Testimony to Shamanism in the Germanic World.

On seventh-century gold coins found in Lower Saxony and Scandinavia Odin, he said, was shown wearing bird-mask headgear reminiscent of the masks worn by Siberian and Indian shamans.

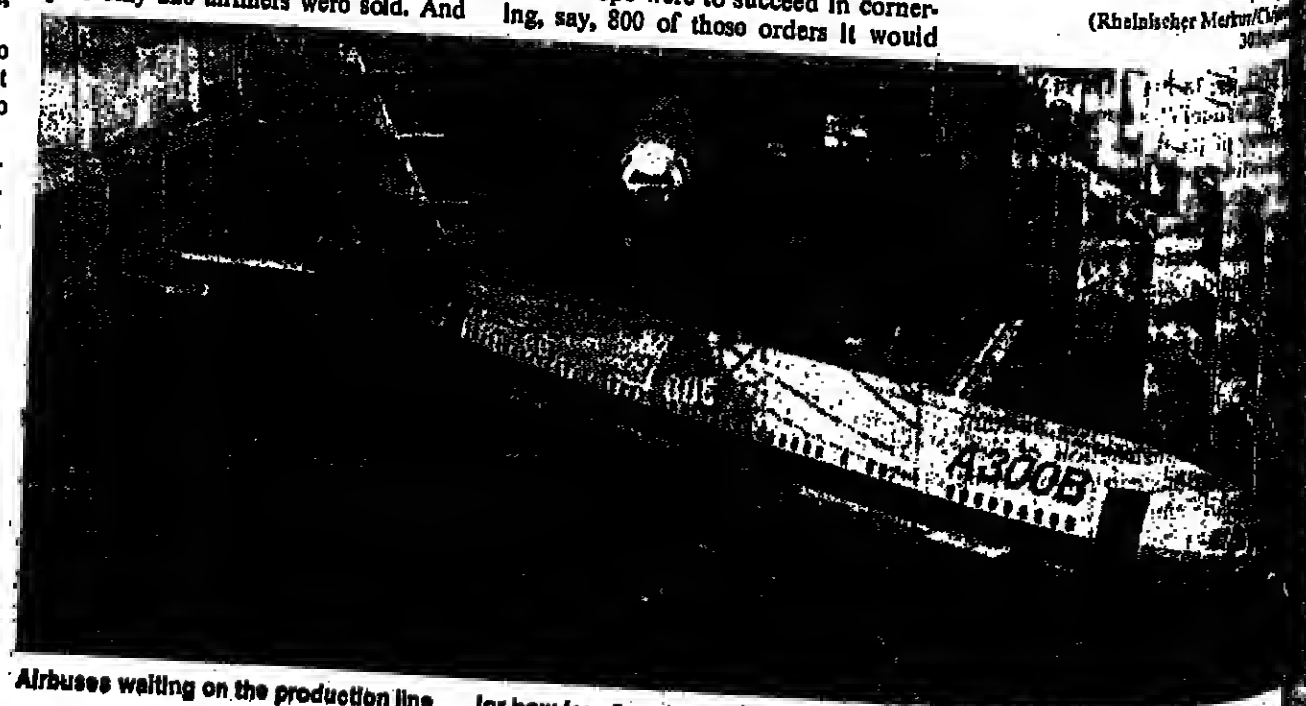
Odin himself does not just survive in sagas and fairy tales. He also persists in popular belief as the Wild Horsesman who drives his team of wolves through the night sky between Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Agnes Kovacs, of Hungary, dealing with peasant fairy tales in her own country, showed how vividly the belief in sorcerers and shamans has survived to the present.

Children born with a tooth to this day are felt to have supernatural powers and be predestined to become shamans.

In Hungarian peasant fairy tales the talismans, or witch doctor, usually appears

Continued on page 14



Airbuses waiting on the production line... for how long?

Karl-Otto Sattler
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 October 1983)

Controls tightened on leather sprays as tests for poisonous ingredients go on

The Bonn Health Ministry has ordered manufacturers to put a warning on the labels of certain sprays used to impregnate leather and textiles.

The red-framed warning must say that inhalation could be hazardous to health, that the spray must be used only outdoors or in well-ventilated places and only for a few seconds at a time; and not near children and pets.

Some sprays have now had to be withdrawn from the market.

Medical literature has for some time dealt with individual cases of health damage caused by leather sprays. State anti-poison centres have registered about 250 cases.

Inhalation can cause headaches, aching joints, dizziness, coughing, fever, shivering, shortness of breath and lung damage.

Symptoms are usually not noticed until an hour or two after use. So there is nothing that would alert the user and make him stop spraying.

Sixty per cent of the affected people had to be hospitalised. Doctors say that in some cases death was averted only by immediate intensive care. Several pets have died. The actual toxin is still unknown.

The Berlin-based Federal health authority originally thought that the spray clogs the lungs. But this has not been substantiated by tests. The health au-



thority has also disproved that the emulsifiers in the spray are the culprit.

It stands to reason therefore that one or several of the chemicals (7 to 11, depending on the brand) cause the poisoning.

This is further supported by an observation made by Professor Stefan Okonek who heads the Mainz anti-poison centre: the danger grows with the quantity.

He says that this would not be the case if the trouble were due to a simple allergic reaction.

Professor Okonek has analysed all reported cases and come to this conclusion: there was a steep rise in 1980 and 1981 in poisoning due to the use of products made by Wemar & Merz, Mainz. After that period there was an equally rapid drop to below average levels.

The head of the company's chemical department, Dr Edelbert Bischoff, said: "At exactly that time we changed our supplier of basic chemicals."

Professor Okonek also says that Wemar & Merz products contained silicone between August and December 1980. After that the use of silicone was discontinued.

Two sprays made by other manufacturers that have been classified as relatively harmless are also silicone-free.

But this is not the end of the "scientific mystery story" as the researchers call it. The silicone theory could easily be proved wrong.

Since none of the substances used in leather sprays are entirely harmless, it is possible that it is a combination that causes the problems.

As experts see it, one of the major bugbears is that the brands that have been banned could be replaced by others with different substances that would still not guarantee their harmlessness.

A spokesman for one of the companies affected by the ban, Dr Lange of the Berlin-based Colloidal, says that the mixtures used in the substitute products have not been known to have negative effects.

Professor Okonek says that if sales of the substitute products are stepped up this could shift the risk to substances that are not yet shown by statistics to be hazardous.

Quite apart from the loss of sales due to the ban, the industry now also has to face the problem of getting rid of the withdrawn chemicals.

Neither the uncertainties about the actual substance that causes the leather spray illness nor economic considerations have stopped the health authority from taking precautions.

In May, it banned Imprignol made by Brauns-Heilmann.

On 9 September, after extensive negotiations, it held a scientific hearing behind closed doors. Five days later, representatives of the states and industry and Bonn officials met at the health ministry. The manufacturers yielded to pressure and withdrew seven brands. The remaining brands now carry the warning label.

Reading poser

Views on the effectiveness of this consumer protection differ.

The head of the Baden-Württemberg health authority, Dr Jägerhuber, has sent this memo to various government authorities: "Experience shows that the public pays no attention to the labels on everyday consumer goods. What's more, some people are unable to read the labels."

Some experts fear that legal responsibility will now rest entirely with the consumer. If he heeded the warnings he would be unable to make sensible use of the sprays: he would have to take his leather couch and easy chairs on to the balcony and then spray them only for a few seconds, which would achieve nothing.

Critics say that it is usually unnecessary to impregnate leather and that this can in any event be done with creams. But the industry says that impregnating sprays for textiles, shoes and other leather goods are essential.

Justin Westhoff
(Der Tagesspiegel, 27 September 1983)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

North and South America, 172 pp., DM 22.80;
Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80;
Africa, 130 pp., DM 19.80;
Europe/USSR, 240 pp., DM 24.80



Look it up in Brockhaus

F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709; D-6200 Wiesbaden 1

Count down combined firms hit out at low level of education

The 9th Space Shuttle mission will be a joint American project. During the nine-day mission, a team of about 250 scientists will work in the Spacelab module. A German scientist, Dr. Helmut Oser, will carry out scientific experiments with an American team.

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Dr Helmut Oser, who is a physicist, was chosen by the Spaca Agency (ESA).

Kassel Chamber of Commerce report on a maths and spelling test all apprentices and trainees had to take at the Hesse Chambers last winter.

The Kassel vocational training experts compared the results of these tests with those of similar tests in 1978.

The proportion of students who had completed junior and senior high school was higher in the latest tests than in 1978. The test results should therefore have been better. But they weren't. The average number of mistakes was exactly the same as in 1978, "showing that the higher ratio of high school graduates did not make for better performance."

The situation elsewhere is exactly the same. In a survey made to find additional training places, the Lübeck Chamber of Commerce and Industry questioned the business community on the results of aptitude tests. The average failure rate was 59 per cent.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, close to 5,000 apprentices volunteered to take a spelling test in January this year. The results were much worse than in the first of these tests two years ago," writes the Association of North Rhine-Westphalian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Nor were there any improvements in the maths tests at the same time. "The main bugbear was fractions, percentages and the figuring out of interest."

Here, too, the chambers urged teachers and educational authorities to "put more emphasis on spelling and maths."

"We have for some time been involved in an intensive discussion about this problem with the chambers of commerce and industry," says a North Rhine-Westphalian Education Ministry spokesman.

Criticism was particularly strong when industry has problems making full use of its production capacities.

A Ministry spokesman: "We don't deny the educational gaps of our students." But this was because conditions for such major subjects as German and maths were worse today than they used to be.

"What child still writes a letter to thank his aunt for a Christmas present? It's quicker and easier to reach for the phone."

Television takes the place of reading these days, and arithmetic is done with a pocket calculator.

The Ministry official: "Naturally, the school system must not capitulate in the face of these difficulties." The Ministry had instructed teachers to put more emphasis on spelling and maths.

Hanna Gieskes
(Die Welt, 14 September 1983)

Chancellor's Office flooded with pleas for jobs

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's election promise of apprenticeships for all has led to a flood of mail at the Chancellor's Office.

Close to 17,000 letters have been received since March and Chancellor's Office.

The letters have to be answered and forwarded to the various labour offices and chambers of commerce.

Now official Bonn parlance refers no longer to "apprenticeship guarantees" but "apprenticeship drive."

So far 7,700 young people or their parents have written to "Dear Mr Chancellor" telling him of their wishes and worries and enclosing extensive apprenticeship application material.

Another 8,800 letters were prompted by various drives such as the SPD coupon drive before the election.

Among these letters were many that were signed by entire school classes,



youth groups, school faculties and works councils.

Many of the letter writers have written again either to thank the chancellor for an apprenticeship or to tell him that they had failed.

In the latter case, the Chancellor's staff contacts the local labour offices and chambers by telephone.

One of the staff: "That sort of thing takes a lot of time, but it's very effective."

The labour offices and chambers of commerce mobilised by the Chancellor now inform the Chancellor about the success or failure of their efforts.

A Rhineland chamber of commerce and industry that received 99 letters from the Chancellor said it had been able to place 49 of the applicants; 11 wanted to continue with their schooling; the rest did not bother to answer the chamber's letter.

A chamber spokesman: "We suspect that these youngsters are no longer interested in an apprenticeship." Twenty-one of those invited for an interview by a chamber in southern Germany did not turn up. Eight did not go to the interviews arranged with the potential training firm.

A Ruhr area chamber had 374 vacant apprenticeships to offer but 74 of the

105 applicants did not show up for an interview.

This chamber of commerce wrote to the Chancellor: "The youngsters were expressly told that they could come back to the chamber and try again should they fail in their first attempt. Very few made use of this offer."

A trade guild in the Rhine-Main area maintains that not all letters sent to the Chancellor are meant seriously. Writes the guild: "Only about two-thirds of the young people we wrote to responded to our offer. In many cases they told us that the letters they wrote to the Chancellor were politically motivated or that wrote simply because the necessary forms were passed around at school."

The Chancellor describes the activities that were triggered by Helmut Kohl's apprenticeship drive as encouraging.

It says it has received 400 letters with suggestions and concrete apprenticeship offers that have been forwarded to labour offices and chambers of commerce.

The letter writing drive of a Rhineland mayor resulted in an additional 300 apprenticeships against the previous year.

A savings bank decided to waive dividends for three years in favour of ten additional training places.

A youngster who had next to no schooling and was therefore considered a hopeless case managed to get a locksmith apprenticeship through the Chancellor and the local chamber.

The Chancellor warns against striking a final balance sheet of the apprenticeship drive now, stressing that this cannot be done until October or November at the earliest.

Officials say that the 35,000 apprenticeships promised by the Chancellor will probably be exceeded. The trades alone reported 25,000 additional openings at the end of August.

The number of those who have apprenticeship contracts in their pockets but are still listed with the labour office as applicants is unknown. So is the number of those who have hoarded several contracts.

Even officials are now sceptical as to how many young people will eventually wind up with apprenticeships. The number of applicants has risen more than anticipated.

Rudi Klug

(Mannheimer Morgen, 21 September 1983)

220,000 suppliers of 75,000 products 'made in Germany'



Who manufactures what?

Find suppliers and products, send for quotations, compare prices, track down special sources of supply, cut costs by buying at lower prices.

This is a reference work every buying department should have at the ready.

Easy to use, just like an encyclopaedia:

Products, including 9,000 trade marks, are arranged alphabetically, complete with

manufacturer's or supplier's address.

A telephone number is listed for each supplier.

1,400 pages A4, indexed in English and French.

Price: DM88.16 post free in Germany, DM75 cif abroad.

Order direct from us or from your regular bookseller.



DAV-Verlagshaus
Postfach 11 03 20
D-6100 Darmstadt
Federal Republic of Germany

Tel.: (061 51) 336 61

Doctor convicted in case of paroled sex offender who struck again

A dog owner who allows a vicious dog to run around free until somebody gets bitten could well be charged with causing bodily injury through negligence.

But what happens when a mental hospital psychiatrist allows a sex offender to leave hospital without supervision and the patient commits another sex crime?

A Göttingen court has now ruled that the psychiatrist is also guilty of bodily injury through negligence.

The doctor, at the time medical director of Göttingen state hospital, was fined DM20,400.

An appeal is to be lodged against which is thought to be unique in this country and which is likely to have a far-reaching effect on the psychiatric care of criminals.

The case raises the question as to the extent to which judges and prosecutors, who have no psychiatric training, can evaluate therapeutic measures by applying criminal code criteria.

The case: at the age of 14 and 15, a boy from a broken working class family tried three times to rape women. He succeeded on two other occasions and on yet another occasion he was caught in an act of exhibitionism.

Since the court ruled that he was legally insane he was committed to Moringen state hospital near Göttingen in 1977.

In the summer of 1980, he was allowed to visit his parents twice. He then allegedly committed another sex offence.

His parents, who said that they did not keep him under constant supervision, were later fined on charges of "bodily injury through neglect and omission."

Shortly after this, the young man was

Magic meeting

Continued from page 11

as a wild horse, a figure reminiscent of Hungary's equestrian past.

In the peasant reality of popular belief, on the other hand, the sorcerer is usually limited to human shape.

In the Philippines Christianity (the Roman Catholic faith) is mixed with shamanistic traditions in much the same way as it is in Hungary.

Most miracle healers in the Philippines, Bavarian clergyman Eberhard Rudolph told the gathering, were good Catholics. But their Christian beliefs did not prevent them from holding conversations with spirits.

And just like shamans in fairy tales they send their souls in a state of trance or deep sleep on journey to the end of all worlds.

In fairy tales, the Karishafen conference concluded, the real world and the world beyond are but parts of a whole, linked by bridges and gateways.

They can be crossed not only by the dead but also by the shaman as an initiate and by a loving soul.

In tales of sorcery love wields the strongest magic power. It is a power against which even the spirits of the underworld are powerless.

Margarete von Schwarzkopf
(Die Welt, 27 September 1983)



transferred to Göttingen state hospital. An experienced 61-year-old psychiatrist diagnosed his disorder as curable and assigned him to a group for analysis and therapy.

Since the idea was to gradually accustom the man to returning to a life in freedom, the doctor let him leave the hospital building and move about the extensive grounds without supervision.

But only one-third of hospital is fenced in. The offender was able to sneak into town when he wanted.

The psychiatrist was fully aware of this but he trusted the patient sufficiently to accept the risk.

He did not depart from this practice even after the court trying the relapse during the patient's visit to his parents ordered the continued stay of the offender — now 19 — in a mental hospital on the grounds that he was a danger to the public.

In the following weeks, the patient was seen drunk returning to the hospital late at night. Six to eight packs of cigarettes were found on him and he admitted to having left the hospital grounds to visit a girl friend at a nearby home for young people.

Though the doctor did not just accept these violations of rules, he saw no reason to take any drastic action. For the

A doctor has been acquitted by a Krefeld court on a charge involving the death of a 77-year-old woman who had requested to be allowed to die. The German society for a humane death says this is the first case of its kind in Germany.

There was general approval in the courtroom when the ruling was handed down.

But the acquitted doctor was well aware that this was only a provisional victory. The prosecutor, who had demanded a suspended fine of DM9,000, is to appeal.

The case involves a doctor who allowed to die in peace. He did nothing to help her when he found her lying in a coma. This was as she wanted.

According to the bench, Dr Herbert Wittig found the 77-year-old woman lying in bed after having broken down the door to her apartment with the help of one of the dead woman's neighbours. The neighbour was also charged and acquitted.

The woman was in a hopeless condition after taking 44 sleeping pills and injecting herself with 12 morphine ampoules. Her breathing was down to six a minute and her pulse could no longer be felt.

On her desk, the doctor found a note saying: "I forbid any effort to extend my life at any cost. I want to die in dignity. In the full possession of my mental faculties, I request: no hospital, no nursing home, no intensive care unit and no life-prolonging medical measures." She had repeatedly asked this since 1980.

Her folded hands on top of the white sheet clutched a photograph of her husband, who had died several months earlier.

Next to the photograph was another note reading: "To my doctor: No hospital please. Deliverance. I want to join my Peter."

The doctor knew his patient wanted to commit suicide at some point. He knew that the couple had talked about this while the husband was alive. Both had regarded their lives as fulfilled. They had decades of harmonious marriage and had achieved everything they had wished for.

The doctor did not approve of the suicide plan and tried to talk her out of it in long discussions. And it was in another bid to dissuade her that he went to see her on the evening of 11 November.

It must therefore have come as a shock to him to find her dying. If her life could have been saved at all she would have been left with severe organic damage and reduced to a vegetable. And exactly this was what she had feared most.

The doctor found himself, in a terrible dilemma. On the one hand, his Hippocratic Oath committed him to saving life at any cost. On the other hand, he felt that he had to honour the patient's last wish.

After much soul-searching, he decided to respect her wish. Together with the neighbour, he spent the night at her

psychiatrist, the visit to the girl was an indication that the patient was trying to establish non-violent relations with the opposite sex.

The event that possibly triggered the relapse occurred two weeks later. The psychiatrist was taken ill with an eye illness and could not keep the patient on a "therapeutic leash" as he put it. The doctor himself had to be hospitalised. It was shortly before this doctor-patient separation that the offender committed yet another sex offence.

A few days later, he visited the psychiatrist at his sickbed (he had told the doctor that he had been allowed to go to town under supervision. He was relieved).

A short while later, he again nipped two women.

According to the prosecutor and the bench, the psychiatrist should have anticipated these events.

Due to the "generally dangerous nature of the patient," the judge said, the doctor should not have allowed him to leave the premises without supervision.

He said that any relaxation in the detention conditions in such cases would have to be preceded by many years of treatment.

At the first violations of rules and no later than when the patient visited the doctor at his sickbed, the therapist should have cancelled the privilege of leaving the hospital building, the judge said.

The counsel for the defence, Hans-

Mercy death doctor is acquitted

bound, who had died several months earlier.

Next to the photograph was another note reading: "To my doctor: No hospital please. Deliverance. I want to join my Peter."

The doctor knew his patient wanted to commit suicide at some point. He knew that the couple had talked about this while the husband was alive. Both had regarded their lives as fulfilled. They had decades of harmonious marriage and had achieved everything they had wished for.

The doctor did not approve of the suicide plan and tried to talk her out of it in long discussions. And it was in another bid to dissuade her that he went to see her on the evening of 11 November.

It must therefore have come as a shock to him to find her dying. If her life could have been saved at all she would have been left with severe organic damage and reduced to a vegetable. And exactly this was what she had feared most.

The doctor found himself, in a terrible dilemma. On the one hand, his Hippocratic Oath committed him to saving life at any cost. On the other hand, he felt that he had to honour the patient's last wish.

After much soul-searching, he decided to respect her wish. Together with the neighbour, he spent the night at her

deceased until the following day.

Presiding Judge Dieter Hoffmann said with the case on the purely medical than the ethical plane, in any case, the court found that no crime had been committed.

The charge of homicide was due to withholding medical aid which was untenable because the patient was saved or prolonged the patient's life. But since the doctor believed that life could perhaps have been saved at the cost of lifting the veil of confidentiality, the court also dealt with the case as a matter of attempt.

It found that the accused had abided by the earnest wish of the patient.

The court thus adopted the view in legal literature although every practice has so far held the doctor's responsibility begins at the moment when the patient loses consciousness and hence free will.

The bench also ruled that the accused was not guilty of denial of assistance. To be found guilty of this count, the case would have involved an accident.

The judge said that while the Court had ruled in 1954 that the accused was subject to constant supervision, the bench doubted whether suicide that has not been committed is a state of emotional stress and whether it is a crime.

In the end, he emphasised that was unnecessary in this case because the patient had died.

Jürgen Witzel
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 September 1983)

deceased until the following day.

Presiding Judge Dieter Hoffmann said with the case on the purely medical than the ethical plane, in any case, the court found that no crime had been committed.

The charge of homicide was due to withholding medical aid which was untenable because the patient was saved or prolonged the patient's life. But since the doctor believed that life could perhaps have been saved at the cost of lifting the veil of confidentiality, the court also dealt with the case as a matter of attempt.

It found that the accused had abided by the earnest wish of the patient.

The court thus adopted the view in legal literature although every practice has so far held the doctor's responsibility begins at the moment when the patient loses consciousness and hence free will.

The bench also ruled that the accused was not guilty of denial of assistance. To be found guilty of this count, the case would have involved an accident.

The judge said that while the Court had ruled in 1954 that the accused was subject to constant supervision, the bench doubted whether suicide that has not been committed is a state of emotional stress and whether it is a crime.

In the end, he emphasised that was unnecessary in this case because the patient had died.

Jürgen Witzel
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 September 1983)

MODERN LIVING

Prisoners' newspapers in a bit of a jam

ship inside has been ended in the usual way.

Writers and others who helped with the magazine were transferred to other prisons and *Lichtblick* now has the field to itself again.

This clash in Berlin occurred a while ago, but it is a typical example of the difficulties prison magazines face. They are always strictly censored, often worst where there is claimed to be no censorship.

The red pencil is wielded by the prison governors, who are often chairmen of the editorial board. But self-censorship often makes the more direct approach superfluous.

With few exceptions the editors, who are often hand-picked by prison officers, are fulsome in their praise of the idea of togetherness between prisoners and staff.

Der Riegel, a prison magazine published in Nuremberg, asked its readers: "Who of us is keen on holding responsibility? ... In the final analysis we are all in the same boat."

Wir, published in Landsberg, also in Bavaria, admitted: "There are limits to our criticism from the outset. We bear the red pencil in mind so as not to have to do the work again."

Not all prison magazine writers are so honest about their work, but the fact is that but for a few exceptions they have long grown accustomed to the official gagging to which they are subjected.

The contents are not infrequently edited by social workers and prison officers. The magazines occasionally go in for a "crime and punishment" outlook and a "common sense" that amounts to accepting the status quo.

That, of course, is just what the prison officers want. Nothing makes life

more difficult than prisoners with grievances.

So as a rule the contents are limited to less controversial issues such as shopping behind bars, visiting arrangements, leisure and sporting activities.

Magazines have even taken to publishing fiction and poems, and of course puzzles, with a pouch of tobacco or a packet of coffee for the first correct entry received.

They have names such as *Der Versuch*, *Der Kompromiss*, *Klotze*, *Das Schilffisch* and *Santa Fu Magazin*. They walk a tightrope between censorship and compromise.

It is particularly difficult when they make use of infrequent opportunities to publish important information, to prompt discussions and stimulate criticism.

Pinpointing grievances and working alongside prisoners' representatives can prove equally difficult.

These are magazines with a high readership but a constant struggle in connection with censorship of one kind and another.

Like the sword of Damocles, there is a constant threat of the governor saying no and clamping down.

Several prison magazines try to gain outside support by selling subscriptions to outsiders. Unlike magazines that have a circulation restricted to one jail, they mail much of their circulation elsewhere.

But, as *Das Megaphon*, a magazine produced in Butzbach jail, Hesse, learnt to its cost, outside support can also have its drawbacks.

Outside subscribers began to cancel their subscriptions. Others stopped paying for them. There were fewer small ads from publishers and other advertisers. The magazine soon folded.

Did the prison officers and the justice

department have anything to do with this? Maybe. No-one knows for sure.

Pressure certainly doesn't just come from outside. Nearly all people who write for prison magazines do so for only a short period.

Some are released, others transferred. Then there are endless debates on form and content and in-fighting over claims to leadership.

Many editorial staff grow sick and tired of this hickhiking. They quit. A working relationship based on partnership seems hard to establish behind bars.

It may be a closed shop but the atmosphere is not conducive to cooperation as opposed to competition, although exceptions prove the rule.

Kuckucksei, published in Schwerte, Westphalia, is now into its third year of publication. Despite countless attempts by the prison authorities to gag it, it has never steered clear of critical issues.

This is probably because it has an editorial team of "regulars" and appears regularly, once a quarter. It is fairly bulky and well put together and has a regular readership too.

Its readers are not just behind bars. They include writers such as Lutz Rinsor and Ingeborg Drewitz, who have occasionally written articles specially for the magazine.

That has meant kudos and brought the attention of a wider public to the magazine's existence. Prison issues that would not normally strike a wider public are given a public airing.

The *Kuckucksei* editors have devised their own method of flouting censorship. There is a regular column entitled "What You Will Not Be Able To Read In This Issue."

It lists items that have been censored by the prison authorities. If we are going to be censored by the governor, the editorial board argue, then we aren't going to take it lying down; we're going to make it public.

Prison magazines need a wider public and a wider readership. They can be an invaluable intermediary between life behind bars and life outside.

Helmut Ortner

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 October 1983)

Adult illiteracy remains a big problem

people all over the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin.

The number of courses for non-Germans is extremely small.

Horst Müller, who now works for the Frankfurt association, spent years teaching adult illiterates to read and write in Berlin.

The number of courses offered is a bad joke, he says. It would be even less likely to cater for the level of demand if courses were published in the media (TV, for instance).

Germany, he feels, is a decade behind Britain in literacy courses and publicity for them. It may fairly be termed a developing country.

He and his associates feel it is extremely important to reach agreement on a standard telephone number the illiterate can dial to make enquiries.

In a debate with West Berlin education officials illiterates and literacy teachers in Tiergarten borough said everyone who wanted to learn to read and write ought to be given the opportunity.

The debate was held in connection with the International Literacy Day Unesco holds every September to draw attention to the problem.

Speakers were strongly critical of plans to cut spending on adult education. They demanded more cash for literacy campaign work, not less.

It was the only way to flesh out the constitutional rights to free personality development, to freedom of opinion and to freedom of employment.

In practice illiterates and semi-literates are often disheartened after summoning up the courage to come out and do something about learning to read and write.

Those who are unable to attend inexpensive evening classes because there are none in their area or they need special classes to begin with need cash and often have to apply to the welfare office for grants.

To qualify for welfare grants toward literacy courses they have to prove that their inability to read and write may trigger serious mental upsets.

They are questioned by local authority doctors whose enquiries are felt by many people to be humiliating. "How does it affect your marriage?" is one of the questions asked.

Birgit-Ingeborg Löff

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 September 1983)

A Bonn Education Ministry report says between 600,000 and three million people in the Federal Republic of Germany whose native language is German are illiterate or semi-literate.

In West Berlin the authorities estimate there to be between 10,000 and 30,000 people who either have the greatest difficulty in reading or writing or are incapable of either.

Unfavourable conditions at home or at schools are often to blame. So are impediments of speech, hearing and vision that go unnoticed for too long and are not given suitable treatment.

No-one has the slightest idea how many foreign nationals there may be in Germany who can speak either German or their native language or both but can read and write neither.

Many Turkish women are definitely folt to suffer from loneliness caused by the alien environment and illiteracy.

Literacy courses and aids are few and far between. At evening classes all over the country only 300 courses are said to have been held this year, catering for a mere 2,000 people.

As some of the questionnaires sent out by the Evening Classes Association in Frankfurt am Main have yet to be returned the figure is presumed to be 400

night school courses for about 3,000

Space mission

Continued from page 12

the only human organ that depends entirely on earth gravity.

Professor von Baumgarten said he believed that the German D1 mission carried out in 1985 with a rotoned shuttle will be fully automated and leave enough time for experiments in sciences.

Research will centre on the vestibular system. The test persons will be put through their paces in line with prearranged acceleration patterns.

The ESA has urged doctors to suggest experiments with systems that have no relevance to the German clearing house for information, complete with a film jointly produced by NASA and the ESA, is

phar Pharma in Hanover.

Ute B. Fröhlich
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 September 1983)